

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR.
RALPH RUSH HENDRICKS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Ralph Hendricks.

Born in Jay, Florida on June 3, 1927, Ralph Hendricks lived a life deeply rooted in his strong faith in God and love for his family and community. Dr. Hendricks began preaching along the Gulf Coast after graduating from Asbury College and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, Dr. Hendricks served pastorates throughout the Alabama-West Florida Conference for 40 years, including those in Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties.

His service to the Northwest Florida community, however, spread beyond the doors of the church. A pivotal leader in the local community, Dr. Hendricks served six years as a District Superintendent of the Andalusia District. He also served 37 years in the United States Navy and became chaplain of the Alabama Army National Guard. During his role as chaplain, he obtained the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. After his retirement, he continued to dedicate his time to those in need as Hospice chaplain in Escambia County, Florida.

To some, Ralph Hendricks will be remembered as a community leader and to others as a dedicated pastor and chaplain. To his family, he will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Ralph is survived by his wife Betty of 57 years; his children, Randy, Steve, and Mary Kaye; 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Dr. Ralph Hendricks for his honorable leadership and service to Northwest Florida and to this great nation. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed.

RECOGNIZING MARITIME INTERNATIONAL FOR THE 2011 LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LANTERN AWARD

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Maritime International, a company from South Louisiana, for being named winner of the 2011 Lantern Award, District 4.

The Lantern Award is presented by Louisiana Economic Development to salute manufacturers from across the state for their outstanding contributions to the Louisiana economy and to their communities.

Maritime International is owned by David Leblanc, John Deats and Donald Nassar and provides full service marine engineering and manufacturing. It serves many different clients including the U.S. Navy, oil companies, government agencies and port authorities. Maritime's goal is to offer clients effective and economical solutions for their mooring and berthing needs. Five engineering and sales offices are located in the U.S., China, the U.K., UAE and France.

Maritime makes an effort to purchase items from Louisiana vendors and is very involved in the local community. The company provides support to community events and charitable needs including Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, St. Jude, UNICEF and many more. Maritime International has steadily grown and innovated since beginning in 1996 and is continuing to do so with new expansion jobs underway.

It goes without saying that Maritime International is very deserving of the honor of being given the 2011 Lantern Award. The staff at Maritime International is innovative and effective in what they do. I wholeheartedly thank Maritime International for their service to Louisiana, and I congratulate the company on this award.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition of H.R. 2017, the FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. As a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring state and local officials have the resources they need in order for them to efficiently and effectively respond to national and local emergencies. This bill breaks faith with first responders, who are essential to our national security, by significantly underfunding them.

In particular, this bill proposes to cut firefighter assistance grants by more than fifty percent. The Assistance to Firefighter Grant program (FIRE) focuses on equipping firefighters with the necessary resources they need to respond to any national or local emergency in a post 9/11 environment. The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Re-

sponse Grant program is designed to allow fire departments to increase their training and hiring of more firefighters. By cutting FIRE grants by 51 percent, from \$405 million in FY 2011 to \$200 million in FY 2012 and SAFER grants by 63 percent, from \$405 million in FY 2011 to \$150 million in FY 2012, we ultimately risk jeopardizing the safety of our communities. In addition, this bill takes away direct funding for nine key state and local security grants (including State Homeland Security Grants, Urban Area Security Initiative, Transit Security Grants, and Port Security Grants), combines them into a separate block grant, and slashes the funding of the block grant by 55 percent—from \$2.2 billion in FY 2011 to \$1 billion in FY 2012. By requiring all of these critical programs to compete against one another for essentially half the funding they each received the previous year, this bill will force many of these programs to be underfunded or zeroed out entirely.

This bill also significantly cuts Homeland Security Research and Development projects by 42 percent—from \$688 million in FY 2011 to \$398 million in FY 2012. By implementing these cuts, this bill would force us to eliminate more than 144 research projects in areas such as biological and explosives detection, advanced cyber security, and interoperability. In a time when our nation remains highly vulnerable to terrorism, we cannot afford to lose these essential counterterrorism research projects.

In response to our troubling debt, many cuts were already made to H.R. 1473, the FY 2011 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 102–10). For example, State Homeland Security Grants were cut from \$950 million in FY 2010 to \$725 million in FY 2011; the Urban Area Security Initiative was cut from \$887 million in FY 2010 to \$725 million in FY 2011; Transit Security grants were cut from \$300 million in FY 2010 to \$250 million in FY 2011; Port Security Grants were cut from \$300 million in FY 2010 to \$250 million in FY 2011; and SAFER grants were cut from \$420 million in FY 2010 to \$405 million in FY 2011. By continuing to make substantial cuts, this bill will undoubtedly hinder the capabilities of our nation's first responders.

According to The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) these cuts would have disastrous effects on the safety of our communities. They have stated that "[a]t a time when state and local public safety budgets are shrinking, it is unconscionable to implement cuts of this magnitude. Make no mistake, if this proposal is enacted, it would devastate local fire department budgets and threaten public safety nationwide." In addition to the cutting of research programs, this bill also makes a foolish mistake of preserving a cap on the total number of TSA screeners at 46,000—which will prevent the additional hiring of personnel needed to staff new security technology.

There will be a number of other troubling consequences if this bill is to pass:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Transit agencies would not have funding to hire additional law enforcement officers, acquire bomb sniffing dogs, or install explosive screening devices at a time when open source media reports indicate that Al Qaeda may be attempting a major attack on the U.S. rail system.

States and localities would receive greatly reduced funding (or be denied funding entirely) to harden tunnels and bridges or install surveillance systems at high-risk areas.

Ports would not have funds for vessels to protect harbor waterways from a terrorist threat or for maritime training of law enforcement personnel at the ports.

According to the National Association of Counties, a reduction in grant programs and the combining of funding would result in communities of all sizes not being able to enhance their level of preparedness to deal with all hazards, including potential nuclear, chemical, and biological attacks.

As a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I refuse to stand by this bill. We as members of Congress have a responsibility to protect our communities from any possible danger. For this reason, there is no higher priority than to adequately fund our homeland security, particularly our first responders such as firefighters. It makes no sense to weaken our Homeland Security program by cutting their resources in a time when terrorist threats continue to put our nation at risk. We as members of Congress must unite and assist our brave first responders in their efforts to help contain any threats by providing them with all necessary resources, rather than turn our backs and leave them without sufficient funding. This bill not only undermines our nation's security, it also undermines our allegiance to the American people who look up to us in this particular time to protect them from any possible danger, whether it is an act of terrorism or a natural disaster. For this reason, I oppose H.R. 1229, the FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 11th, my vote on rollcall vote No. 309 was incorrectly recorded as "aye" when I intended to vote "no." I did not see the error until it was too late. I have strong opposition to H.R. 1229 and my intention was to vote "no" on this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROSTATE ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Men's Health Week to urge my colleagues to support the fight against one of our Nation's leading causes of death among men—prostate cancer. There are significant racial and ethnic disparities that demand attention: African

Americans have prostate cancer mortality rates that are more than double those in the white population. Underserved rural populations have higher rates of mortality compared to their urban counterparts. Additionally, certain veterans' populations may have nearly twice the incidence of prostate cancer than the general population of the United States.

There should be coordination across Federal agencies which are already receiving significant resources focused on prostate cancer programs. This coordination would serve to improve accountability and actively encourage the translation of research into practice. Additionally, this coordination would serve to identify and implement best practices, in order to foster an integrated and monolithic focus on effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment of this disease.

For these reasons, I, along with Rep. BROWN, now introduce this bi-partisan piece of legislation. Our bill provides for a time-limited interagency taskforce to ensure that the Federal dollars invested in the fight against this disease are well spent.

In 2010, more than 217,730 new patients were diagnosed with, and more than 32,050 men died from this disease. Furthermore, about 1 man in 6 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and roughly 2 million Americans are living with a diagnosis of prostate cancer and its consequences. While prostate cancer generally affects older individuals, younger men are also at risk for the disease. When prostate cancer appears in early middle age it frequently takes on a more aggressive form. Prostate cancer continues to be a serious threat to our Nation's men.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and use this as an opportunity to show America's men that they have your support.

RECOGNIZING MAX BRAKE CONTROLLERS FOR THE 2011 LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LANTERN AWARD

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Max Brake Controllers, a company from Cameron Parish, Louisiana, for being named winner of the 2011 Lantern Award, District 3. The Lantern Award is presented by Louisiana Economic Development to salute manufacturers from across the state for their outstanding contributions to the Louisiana economy and to their communities.

Thomas McDaniel, his wife Debbie and company employees created Max Brake Controllers several years ago. McDaniel is also the owner of Mac's Classic Muscle Cars, a supplier of Max Brakes. Because of his experience in this field, McDaniel was able to play a key role in creating the Max Brake technology. Max Brake Company uses Louisiana parts as much as possible, with about half of the components bought locally including brass stock, electrical parts and hardware from local companies.

Max Brake Controllers uses a braking system for trucks and big rigs to carry large loads. An electrical display presents hydraulic vehicle brake pressure and helps to control

electric trailer brakes. The brake pressure is monitored by a pressure sensor in the vehicle master cylinder.

McDaniel is a member of the Cameron Parish Police Jury. He is also an avid supporter of South Cameron High School and a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, Recreation Department and Water District.

It goes without saying that Max Brake Controllers is very deserving of the honor of being given the 2011 Lantern Award. McDaniel and the other staff at Max Brake Controllers are innovative and effective in what they do, and I am honored to serve as their member of Congress. I wholeheartedly thank Max Brake Controllers for their service to the Cameron Parish and the state of Louisiana, and I congratulate the company on this award.

CONGRATULATING THE JET PROPULSION LABORATORY ON THE COMPLETION OF THE SPIRIT ROVER MISSION

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the La Canada Flintridge based Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), its director, Dr. Charles Elachi and all of the JPL employees, on successfully completing the mission of Spirit, a Mars Exploration Rover. Spirit was designed, built and operated by JPL.

In the summer of 2003, NASA launched Spirit along with its twin, Opportunity, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. After traveling for six months and more than a quarter million miles, Spirit landed on Mars on January 3, 2004. The Mars Exploration Rover mission sought to expand our understanding of Mars' geological history and find evidence of water. One of the mission's greatest achievements was Spirit's discovery of minerals indicating that Mars was once a wet environment with hot springs and steam vents. These conditions may have been favorable for microbial life. In addition, Spirit provided us with thousands of breathtaking images of Mars' surface. While Spirit's mission was only planned for three months, it showed amazing resiliency and continued to operate for six years. After surviving three Martian winters, countless dust storms and a broken wheel, NASA lost contact with Spirit last March. Opportunity continues to explore the Martian surface.

Mr. Speaker, the success of Spirit's mission, and JPL's scientific accomplishments, demonstrate the need to continue strong support for Mars exploration missions. As you may know, the Mars Science Laboratory is scheduled to launch at the end of this year. It will expand upon the discoveries made by Spirit and provide new insight into Mars' past. Its primary purpose is to determine if Mars was ever capable of supporting microbial life. To accomplish this, the mission will carry the most advanced instruments ever sent to Mars and have the capability to travel farther than past rovers.

Mankind has always yearned to explore what is beyond the horizon. However, space exploration does more than inspire our imagination. It provides measurable benefits here at